

Reference Date: 19-April-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Near normal harvests are expected for the mostly-irrigated early cereal crops in 2011
- Prices of rice have risen steadily since the beginning of 2010
- Pockets of vulnerability persist following natural disasters

Near normal outcome of the 2011 early season cereal crops is expected

Early season crops such as maize, wheat and secondary paddy are currently being harvested. Wheat and rice are either fully dependent on irrigation or supplemented by irrigation. In average, the dry season paddy production accounts for about 18 to 20 percent of the annual output and for about 15 to 17 percent of the area harvested. Rainfall in the country from the beginning of the season in November 2010 to the first dekad of April 2011 has been generally below average in the north and above average in the south. Overall, an about normal cereal harvest is expected.

Official figures for the aggregate cereal production of 2010 are not yet available but FAO estimates it to be about 32 million tonnes, slightly below the previous year's level. Rice accounts for more than 90 percent of the aggregate cereal production. Low precipitation throughout the country for the main season adversely affected the total output.

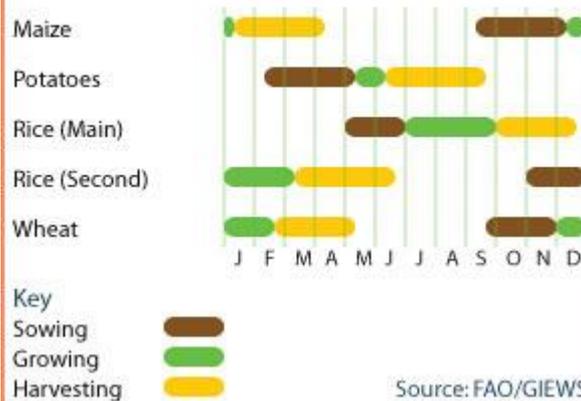
Prices of rice have risen steadily since the beginning of last year

Latest information from the Central Statistical Office indicates that the average retail rice price in January 2011 was 21 percent higher than the same month a year earlier, while the year-on-year food price inflation was 9.7 percent and the consumer price inflation 8.3 percent over the same period. The increase in prices of the main staple rice is hampering access to food by vulnerable groups of population.

Pockets of vulnerability persist following natural disasters in recent years

According to UNOCHA infant mortality in Myanmar remains high, with one in 10 births resulting in the infant's death. Furthermore, malnutrition is widespread among children under age 5 and life expectancy is 61.2 years, compared with the regional average of 72.2 years. Severe devastation including damages to agricultural infrastructure and production systems during the 2008 monsoon season in Ayeyarwady Delta and Yangon Division was caused by Cyclone Nargis. The country is affected by various natural disasters. In 2011 the international donors have responded with a total of USD 54 million for development of the key livelihoods sectors.

Crop calendar Myanmar

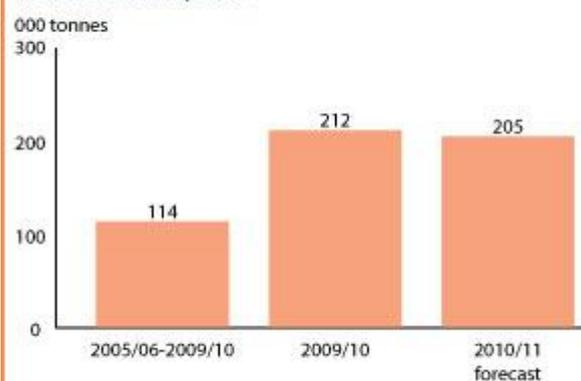


Myanmar Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	30317	31000	30800	-1
Maize	1065	1115	1115	0
Millet	173	165	165	0
Others	166	173	163	-6
Total	31721	32453	32243	-1

Notes: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

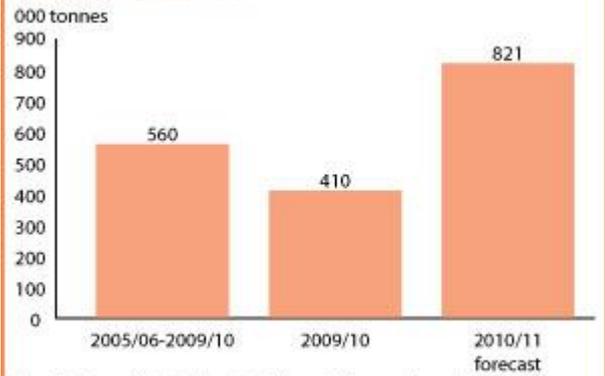
Myanmar Total cereal imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Myanmar

Total cereal exports

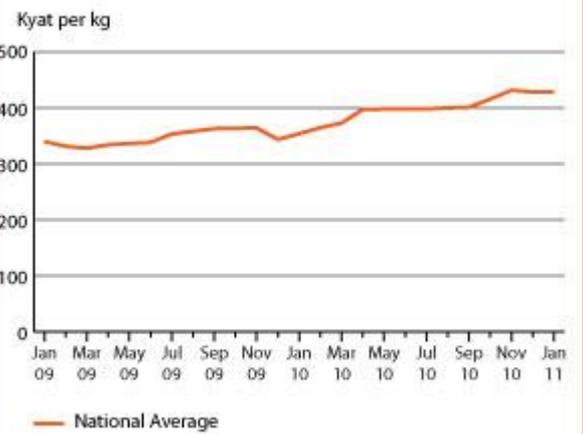


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Myanmar

Retail rice price



Source: Central Statistical Organization